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Atlantic Airways pioneering work earns top industry award

Atlantic Airways, the national airline of the Faroe Islands, is today celebrating a top industry award for its pioneering work in introducing the latest navigation technology to European commercial aviation. CEO Magni Arge received the European Regions Airline Associations Bronze Airline of the Year Award last night (Thursday) at the associations General Assembly at Dublin Convention Centre, Ireland. The judging panel cited the airlines pioneering navigation work among the reasons for making the highly coveted award - The airline successfully introduced the first RNP-AR EASA (European Aviation Safety Agency)-certified navigation technology on a new aircraft type (Airbus A319), enabling performance enhancements, safety and fuel-saving benefits a considerable achievement for such a small airline. The associations outgoing Director General, Mike Ambrose, added - The judges also commented that the airline is very close to its community and plays a significant part in the marketing of its country as a tourist goal. The judging panel, representing extensive and senior air transport business experience and comprising past Presidents of ERA member airlines and media representatives, noted that Atlantic Airways distinguishes itself with high reliability and a constant search for operational improvements. The panel also commented that the airline has managed to make a fundamental positive change in its own structure. It is well-managed. As a result of careful cost control and identification of new income sources, it has managed to grow in a profitable way. Magni Arge expressed his pride in receiving the award, saying - Next March will mark a quarter of a century, during which Atlantic Airways has striven to provide the best and most reliable service possible to our island community of fewer than 50,000 people. It represents the best possible recognition of the tremendous team work that has been

going on both in the airline and in collaboration with our partners. That team work saw our first Airbus delivered on time and the RNP-AR system approved ahead of its entry into service. The achievement takes us to a new level and we look forward to continued success in 2013 and beyond. In selecting the Airbus A319 as the platform for our future growth, we were conscious that we would have to push the boundaries to ensure that the aircraft was optimised for our difficult operating environment. We worked closely with the manufacturer and with its navigation subsidiary, Quovadis, to achieve this. In this context I am delighted to receive this Airline of the Year Award from our industry peers in the European Regions Airline Association. The airline in March became the first in Europe to introduce the satellite-based precision approach system, RNP AR 0.1 (Required Navigation Performance with Authorisation Required), setting the highest possible standard for Europe's major airlines to follow. Certification of the new system, developed by Atlantic Airways in partnership with Quovadis, a subsidiary of manufacturer, Airbus, was achieved by the airline despite its comparatively modest resources and in the context of the immense challenge of breaking the mould of traditional regulatory thinking.